Pater., I am inevitably led to the conclusion that *Pothocites* is not the inflorescence of an Aroid, as has hitherto generally been supposed, but the fructification of a *Calamitaceous* plant.

At an early date I hope to illustrate and describe these interesting fossil plants more in detail.

P.S.—Since writing the above, my attention has been called to a lecture by Prof. Williamson, in which some doubts are expressed as to the usually accepted notions of the affinities of *Pothocites*. After alluding to the modern reference of *Antholites* to the group of gymnospermous exogens, he adds, "I expect that further research will lead to some similar change in reference to *Pothocites*" ('Essays and Addresses by Professors and Lecturers of the Owens College, Manchester,' 1874).

XLIII.—*On some apparently undescribed Rhopalocera.*

By W. L. Distant.

Melanitis Libya, n. sp.

Wings above fuliginous brown; anterior wings with a large and very dark fuscous subapical patch, containing two large white spots, the margins of which are pale bluish; the first of these spots is subquadrate, placed above and resting upon the first median nervule; the second is rounded, placed beneath the outer edge of the upper spot and between the first and second median nervules. Anterior wings beneath dull ochraceous; basal portion beneath cell and second median nervule, and three transverse fasciæ crossing cell (the first somewhat obscure and the outer one broadest), dark and dull violaceous; beyond the cell the wing is crossed by two very obscure transverse fasciæ, concolorous, but darker in hue than the area on which they are placed, and a small, distinct, rounded white spot between the first and second median nervules. Posterior wings beneath dark and dull violaceous; costal area from above and including extreme base of cell ochraceous; this colour is continued downwards beyond discocellular nervules in a somewhat indistinct streak; outer margin brownish, and a submarginal row of very small and indistinct whitish spots placed between the nervules. Body and legs more or less concolorous with wings.

Expanse of wings 82 millim.

Hab. Masassi, East Africa.

In general shape and form this species resembles *M. ismene*, Cramer; but the colour and markings both above and beneath are of a very distinct nature.

Ypthima Robinsoni, n. sp.

Wings above very dark fuliginous; anterior wing with an ovate ocellated spot (black, with two small bluish centres and an ochraceous margin) placed a little beyond cell, its upper margin reaching just above the upper discoidal nervule, and its lower margin extending a little beneath first median nervule. Posterior wings with two small rounded ocellated spots (black, with a bluish centre and ochraceous margin) placed between the median nervules. Anterior wings beneath slightly paler than above, with the ocellated spot brighter and crossed by two dark transverse fasciæ, the first near apex of cell and the second somewhat submarginal. Posterior wings beneath greyish, with numerous dark strigæ, which are very thickly and confluently situate at basal area and crossed by three dark fuscous fasciæ, the first and narrowest very slightly curved, passing through centre of cell, the central very oblique, crossing apex of cell, and the third submarginal, broadest near apex, and narrowing towards anal angle; between the second and third fasciæ the colour is very pale greyish, and contains a small ocellated spot between the subcostal nervules; on the outer dark fasciæ are three ocellated spots, placed two between the median nervules and one between the third median nervule and submedian nervure; all these spots are black, with bluish centres and ochraceous margins. Body and legs more or less concolorous with wings.

Expanse of wings 37 millim.

Hab. Pulni and Rhodicanal, S. India (*F. E. Robinson*).

This species is allied to *T. Chenui*, Guér., from which it differs, on the underside, by the darker coloration, the different direction of the two dark fasciæ on the anterior wings, which do not approximate towards each other on inner margin, as in Guérin's species, and also by the second and third dark fasciæ to the posterior wings, which in *Y. Robinsoni* are subparallel and placed somewhat close together, the ocellated spots much smaller, &c.

Cynthia Cantori, n. sp.

♂. Closely allied in marking and coloration to *C. deione*, Erichs., from which it differs above on the anterior wings by the more angulated markings in the cell, and the central transverse fuscous line being placed much nearer to apex of

cell; and on posterior wings this line is seen to be *abruptly broken and deflexed near bases of first and second median nervules*; on under surface this appears much more distinctly; the basal curved line which crosses the cell in *C. deione* is also broken and looped in *C. Cantori*.

Expanse of wings 68 millim.

Hab. Malay Peninsula; Province Wellesley.

This species will be figured in 'Rhopalocera Malayana.'

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Synopsis of the Classification of the Animal Kingdom. By Henry Alleyne Nicholson, M.D. &c. 8vo. Blackwood: Edinburgh and London, 1882.

Dr. Nicholson appears to be indefatigable in the production of educational works on zoology and palæontology. The book now before us makes no pretence to originality of treatment; it is, in fact, an illustrated synopsis of the classes, orders, and principal families of the animal kingdom in close accordance with the classification adopted by the author in his well-known 'Manual of Zoology,' and is intended by him to serve chiefly as a sort of memorandum-book, to which the student may refer to get a general view of the relations of the various groups of organisms. For this purpose it seems to be exceedingly well fitted: the classification adopted reflects very fairly the present views of zoologists in general; and in several cases, where considerable differences of opinion exist, the author has briefly discussed the questions still unsettled, and indicated the changes of classification which would be necessitated by the adoption of views opposed to those which have guided him in his arrangement of the groups. The most important of these little discussions is to be found under the head of the Sponges, which Prof. Nicholson treats as a class of the Protozoa distinct from, but most nearly related to, the Infusoria, and as possibly holding an intermediate position between the Protozoa and the Metazoa, with the latter of which certain zoologists, following Leuckart and Häckel, would place them. This intermediate position is that which the late Prof. Balfour was inclined to assign to the Sponges on embryological grounds, and taking it as demonstrated that the "gastrula" of the sponge proceeds from a true fecundated ovum; but many good observers, including the most recent writer on the subject (Mr. Saville Kent), hold that the ovular nature of the reproductive body in question is by no means proved; and to this opinion our author is inclined to adhere.

The woodcut illustrations, of which there are a great number, especially of the lower Invertebrata, are for the most part exceedingly good. They are generally taken from the figures published by